NASA Project Management Challenge 2009

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Rapid, Collaborative Planning for Global Teams through Project Design

The nature of project work and teaming has changed dramatically the last few decades, yet our traditional planning techniques and tools are rooted in co-located factories a century ago. Global projects in particular introduce complexities from distributed teaming, de-centralized control, and absence of shared work culture, background, and language.

New techniques to overcome the specific difficulty of global projects will be presented. In particular, the "project design" approach allows diverse teams to forecast realistic cost, duration, and quality impacts from coordination. Coordination – real effort to satisfy dependencies and respond to global interaction – can account for 40% or more of total cost and duration. Time-zones, concurrency, priorities differences, mutual dependence, and propagating rework all drive the coordination cost.

Traditional techniques ignore these real costs, often substituting accuracy and insight with the false precision of excruciatingly detailed plans. In the process of collaborative design, global teams rapidly build a shared situational awareness and rehearse scenarios for response to potential change.

Bryan R. Moser
President & CEO
Global Project Design

Bryan is focused on transformation of teamwork and project architectures to match the complex nature of work today. His team at Global Project Design (GPD) is pioneering the use of visual, collaborative design methods as a way to plan, launch, and continuously adjust complex programs.

As a visiting researcher from 1994-1999 at the University of Tokyo he pushed forward the theory, techniques, and case references for high performance global teaming in product development. For a decade with United Technologies, Bryan led technology programs in Asia, creating strategic collaboration with industries, universities and national programs. In the 1980's Bryan was one of the first foreign engineers at Nissan in Japan.

Bryan earned degrees in Computer Science and Technology & Policy both from MIT, where he received the Karl Taylor Compton Award and Alumni Award for Excellence in Technology and Policy. He is a frequent writer and speaker, partnering globally with thought leaders in complex systems performance, including PMI, the Project Management Association of Japan (PMAJ), and the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA).